

REMARKS

[0010] Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims of the application. The status of the claims is as follows:

- Claims 1-39 are currently pending
- Claims 14, 16, 22-31, and 33 are canceled herein
- Claims 1-13, 15, 17-21, 32, 34, 35, and 37 are amended herein

[0011] Support for the amendments to claims 1-13, 15, 17-21, 32, 34, 35, and 37 is found in the specification at least at the following locations in the specification:

- Figure 2
- Paragraph [0031]
- Paragraph [0022]
- Figure 6
- Paragraph [0041]
- Paragraph [0034]
- Paragraph [0037]
- Paragraph [0035]

Claims 1-15 Recite Statutory Subject Matter Under § 101

[0012] Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

[0013] Nevertheless, for the sole purpose of expediting prosecution and without commenting on the propriety of the Office's rejections, Applicant herein amends claims 1-15 as shown above. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments render the § 101 rejection moot.

Cited Documents

[0014] The following documents have been applied to reject one or more claims of the Application:

- **Tang:** Tang, U.S. Patent No. 5,793,365
- **Lee:** Lee et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,330,845
- **Puskala:** Puskala et al., U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0165024

Claims 1-15, 20-34, and 36-39 Are Non-Obvious Over Tang and Lee

[0015] Claims 1-15, 20-34, and 36-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Tang in view of Lee. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Independent Claim 1

[0016] Applicant submits that the Office has not made a *prima facie* showing that independent claim 1 is obvious in view of the combination of Tang and Lee. Applicant submits that the combination of Tang and Lee does not teach or suggest the following features of this claim, as amended (with emphasis added):

...a group interaction application maintained in the memory and executed on the processor to present a graphical user interface associated with the group interaction application for facilitating a group interaction among a first user and one or more other users, the graphical user interface comprising:

a group identification area configured to display visual representations of a plurality of online social groups in which the first user is a member, wherein:

a user's membership in the group is maintained when the user is offline; and

the visual representations of online social groups are automatically arranged by at least one of:

a geographic location associated with a member of one of the online social groups;

a date and time of a most recent communication between the first user and another member of one of the online social groups; and

a frequency of communication between the first user and another member of one of the online social groups; and a group activities menu comprising one or more selectable items representing social activities in which the first user, as a member of a selected group may participate, such that a plurality of group activities in which a member of the selected group who is logged on via a mobile device may participate is different than a plurality of group activities in which a member of the selected group who is logged on via a non-mobile device may participate.

[0017] Claim 1 recites in part, “display visual representations of a plurality of online social groups in which the first user is a member.” The Office cites Tang, Fig. 1A, Fig. 5, Col. 4, lines 66-67 as teaching this element. (Office Action, page 2.) In contrast, Tang describes a gallery window that “provides a visual mechanism for informing the current worker of the presence and communication opportunities for a user-defined set of group members.” (Tang, Col. 5, lines 5-7.) Furthermore, “Fig. 5 illustrates one embodiment of a chat room window 30. In the chat room window 30 there is displayed the icon 14 associated with each worker who is presently in the chat room.” (Tang, Col. 9, lines 26-29.)

[0018] The cited portions of Tang describe visual representations of multiple users. In contrast, claim 1 specifies “visual representations of a plurality of online social groups.” Furthermore, claim 1, as amended, further specifies, “wherein a user’s membership in the group is maintained when the user is offline.” The chat rooms described in Tang represent collections of users who are currently online. A user’s membership in a chat room, as described in Tang, is not maintained when the user is offline.

[0019] In addition, claim 1, as amended herein, recites in part, “a plurality of group activities in which a member of the selected group who is logged on via a mobile device may participate is different than a plurality of group activities in which a member of the selected group who is logged on via a non-mobile device may participate.” None of the cited references teach or suggest different online social activities being made available to a user based on whether the user is connect via a mobile device or a non-mobile device.

[0020] Consequently, the combination of Tang and Lee does not teach or suggest all of the elements and features of this claim. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of this claim be withdrawn.

Dependent Claims 2-15 and 20-22

[0021] Claims 14 and 22 are canceled herein, rendering the rejection of claims 14 and 22 moot.

[0022] Claims 2-13, 15, 20, and 21 ultimately depend from independent claim 1. As discussed above, claim 1 is patentable over the cited documents. Therefore, claims 2-13, 15, 20, and 21 are also patentable over the cited documents of record for at least their dependency from a patentable base claim. These claims may also be patentable for the additional features that each recites.

Independent Claim 23

[0023] Claim 23 is canceled herein, rendering the rejection of claim 23 moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of this claim be withdrawn.

Dependent Claims 24-29

[0024] Claims 24-29 are canceled herein, rendering the rejection of these claims moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

Independent Claim 30

[0025] Claim 30 is canceled herein, rendering the rejection of claim 30 moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of this claim be withdrawn.

Dependent Claim 31

[0026] Claim 31 is canceled herein, rendering the rejection of claim 31 moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of this claim be withdrawn.

Independent Claim 32

[0027] Applicant submits that the Office has not made a prima facie showing that independent claim 32 is obvious in view of the combination of Tang and Lee. Furthermore, claim 32 is amended herein to recite elements similar to those discussed above with reference to claim 1.

[0028] Consequently, for reasons similar to those presented above with reference to claim 1, Applicant submits that the combination of Tang and Lee does not teach or suggest all of the elements and features of this claim. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of this claim be withdrawn.

Dependent Claims 33, 34, and 36

[0029] Claim 33 is canceled herein, rendering the rejection of claim 33 moot.

[0030] Claims 34 and 36 depend from independent claim 32. As discussed above, claim 32 is patentable over the cited documents. Therefore, claims 34 and 36 are also patentable over the cited documents of record for at least their dependency from a patentable base claim. These claims may also be patentable for the additional features that each recites.

Independent Claim 37

[0031] Applicant submits that the Office has not made a prima facie showing that independent claim 37 is obvious in view of the combination of Tang and Lee. As discussed above with reference to claim 1, Applicant submits that the combination of Tang and Lee does not teach or suggest the following features of this claim, as amended (with emphasis added):

A mobile device comprising:
a device-specific processor;
a communication interface configured to establish a connection between the mobile device and another device; and
a user interface executed by the device-specific processor to enable a user of the mobile device to participate in an online group interaction with one or more other members of a group, wherein membership in the group is maintained when a user is offline.

[0032] Consequently, the combination of Tang and Lee does not teach or suggest all of the elements and features of this claim. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of this claim be withdrawn.

Dependent Claims 38 and 39

[0033] Claims 38 and 39 ultimately depend from independent claim 37. As discussed above, claim Independent Claim is allowable / patentable over the cited documents. Therefore, claims 38 and 39 are also patentable over the cited documents of record for at least their dependency from a patentable base claim. These claims may also be patentable for the additional features that each recites.

Claims 16-19 Are Non-Obvious Over Tang, Lee, and Puskala

[0034] Claims 16-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Tang in view of Lee, and further in view of Puskala. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Dependent Claims 16-19

[0035] Claim 16 is canceled herein, rendering the rejection of claim 16 moot.

[0036] Claims 17-19 ultimately depend from independent claim 1. As discussed above, claim 1 is patentable over the cited documents. Therefore, claims 17-19 are also patentable over the cited documents of record for at least their dependency from a patentable base claim. These claims may also be patentable for the additional features that each recites.

Conclusion

[0037] Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the application. If any issues remain that prevent issuance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned representative for the Applicant before issuing a subsequent Action.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Representative for Applicant

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